

HOUSE BILL 1296

By Tidwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 11; Title 4, Chapter 29 and Title 58,
relative to the Great War Commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 11, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 5 of this act as a new part.

SECTION 2. There is created the Great War Commission, hereinafter "the commission," to facilitate the appropriate recognition by Tennessee, along with other states and nations, of the centenary of the cataclysm of 1914 through 1919, later called World War I.

SECTION 3.

(a) The commission shall be composed of nine (9) members: three (3) members to be appointed by the governor, three (3) members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and three (3) members to be appointed by the speaker of the senate. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. All appointees to the commission shall be persons who have demonstrated an interest in Tennessee history, twentieth century world history, modern European world history, or the continuing significance of World War I.

(b) Any survivor of a World War I veteran may serve as an honorary, nonvoting member of the commission.

(c) From its membership, the commission shall elect a chairman and such other officers as the commission deems necessary to effectuate the purposes for which the commission was created.

(d) Members of the commission shall not receive travel expenses or compensation for their service.

(e) For administrative purposes only, the commission shall be attached to the office of the secretary of state.

SECTION 4.

(a) The great war commission has the power and duty to formulate, develop and execute plans for projects and activities that facilitate the appropriate recognition by Tennessee, along with other states and nations, of the centenary of World War I, with particular emphasis on those Tennesseans who made the supreme sacrifice and those who returned home gravely wounded.

(b) The commission is authorized to:

(1) Cooperate with national and international activities that commemorate World War I with appropriate solemnity and accurate scholarship;

(2) Elevate young Tennesseans' knowledge and understanding of World War I, in connection with the teaching of Tennessee, American or World History in public schools and public institutions of higher education; and

(3) Receive and accept loans, gifts, grants, donations or contributions of property, facilities, or services, with or without consideration from any person, firm or corporation or from the state of Tennessee or any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any county, municipal corporation or local government or governing body.

SECTION 5. The commission shall cease to exist on November 11, 2018, at which time all of the commission's minutes, files, papers, recordings, publications, and any other items of historical value shall be delivered to the state library and archives to ensure the preservation of such items.

SECTION 6. For purposes of making initial appointments to the commission, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, for all other purposes this act shall take effect June 28, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.